

Providing Health Care to Minors under Washington Law

Washington State's general age for majority for health care is 18 (RCW 26.28.010). However, a minor can receive services without parental consent in the following areas:

- In the event emergency medical services are necessary.
- For sexually transmitted disease testing/treatment (including HIV) at ***14 years of age or older.***
- For birth control and prenatal care services at ***any age.***
- For outpatient mental health treatment at ***13 years of age or older.***
- For outpatient substance abuse treatment at ***13 years of age or older.***
- If the minor is legally emancipated or married to either an adult or an emancipated minor.

If a minor consents to care, as allowed by law, he or she can request confidentiality for that aspect of care which would prohibit us from releasing this information to anyone, including a parent or guardian, without the minor's express written permission.

We strongly encourage minors to include a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult in all aspects of their health care including those areas noted above. For legal and other reasons, parent or guardian involvement may not always be possible. Rest assured that we always strive to provide health care services that are in the best interests of your child.

If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please contact our office at 253-848-8797.